

THE REFERT

VOL. 2.

KEYSER, W. VA., JANUARY 16, 1907.

NO. 4

Frank's Christmas Eve.

JAMES W. HORN.

How the wind howled that stormy Christmas eve as Frank shook the snow from his hat, swept it from his boots, and hurried in to the warm stove! His mother began stirring the fire when she noticed him enter the gate, that it might give forth its best and warmest welcome after the boy's long tramp. Mrs. Sentry looked into Frank's face as she asked him the result of his trip, but was unable to understand what was back of the unusual expression she saw there. And her wonder showed itself in the somewhat puzzled expression she unconsciously assumed. But this Frank did not notice, for the younger children, Jane, Helen, and Charles, now rushed in from the diningroom, each devouring a slice of chocolate cake—Christmas cake, though they had determined to treat it as Christmas eve cake—and, as soon as the cake had sufficiently disappeared, began to tell about the sledride they had in his absence.

The Sentry family had lived but a few months at this place. Their former home was far down the valley. They were one of the old families of that section, inheriting a considerable estate of land and enjoying many of life's best comforts. But either through business reverses or lack of management they and the estate had parted company.

Away up the long and winding stream, beyond where the fertile valley had disappeared, and where the rugged hillside began its ascent almost at the water's edge, the Manly Lumber Company had erected a large sawmill and were sawing the timber of the large undeveloped area around. Quite a community of houses and people were in this new place, scattered for half a mile below the mill where ever convenient building sites could be found. The company had three lumber plants in other parts of the mountain country.

Mr. Sentry, being in need of some new means of livelihood at this time, had secured the position of manager of the large company store at the sawmill. He and his wife brought with them the notions and sentiments of the well-to-do among

whom they had lived. They had been used to doing things on a large scale, had never thought of poverty save as something vague and far away, and believed that noble acting belonged only to big deeds and big movements. According to their ideals Christmas should be observed by giving and receiving big gifts only. Frank was old enough before leaving the lower valley to have imbibed some of this sentiment.

The United Grocery and Candy Company sent its representative round each week to the store to take orders for supplies. Mr. Sentry occasionally invited him for dinner. Orders for the holiday season were specially large. The grocery people always sent a box of Christmas gifts to each merchant or manager with whom they had extensive dealings. On the morning of the 24th the package for Mr. Sentry and family came; at noon it was opened and its contents noted. Each member of the family had been remembered. But the gifts were little gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Sentry had ever felt that they were stooping in coming to this new place and accepting this new work. If circumstances forced them to adopt a heterodox creed of work, they would at least adhere to their orthodox ideals in other respects.

"Would you accept a little Christmas gift for your boy?" said Frank late in the afternoon as he entered one of the more distant houses of the village. The mother looked surprised. Frank proceeded to unwrap the toy dog he had brought. "We are in a small house and haven't room to keep many little things," added Frank, "and we thought this gift, which came to me today might be pleasing to your boy. It barks nine times after being wound up." The lady hesitatingly reached her hand for it and gratefully explained that it would be the first Christmas gift her boy ever received. The dog was wound up and began barking to the extreme delight of the little boy.

Frank went away scarcely realizing that a trifling gift which he did not care to keep could be a source of rapture to others, and yet almost wishing now that he had kept it.

At the next house at which Frank called he said to the little girl, "Here is a top and a doll that my

sisters have sent you for Christmas. After placing the blue-eyed doll on the edge of the dinner table he wound up the bright red top and let it run on the floor, breathing out in rapid tones its low, soft, sweet music. Frank tarried and talked longer than at the former house; and as he left the mother felt that he must have come to entertain rather than to be entertained.

After all calls had been made and Frank was again at home and the children's description of their sledride was done, Frank related in detail his experience. His task had been far less unpleasant than he and his mother had expected. His narrative of it gave Mrs. Sentry some kind of new pleasure, just how or what she did not understand. The community, the future, the approaching Christmas, seemed to appear in a slightly different light. For several weeks an occasional appreciative word came concerning the gifts distributed that Christmas eve afternoon. "New conditions bring new duties," and sometimes new conditions spoil old notions.

Cumberland Y. M. C. A. vs. W. V. P's.

Saturday, Jan. 19, Cumberland Y. M. C. A. Basket Ball team played the Prep. team in the Preparatory's gymnasium. The game was warm and enthusiastic from the beginning. The teams were very evenly matched thus making the game very interesting. At the end of the first half the score stood 9-10 in favor of the Preps.

Of the Y. M. C. A. team Marean made two goals from field, Johnson made two from field, Rizer made one, and Morris made two and one from free pitch. Y. M. C. A. failed on six free pitches.

Of the "Prep" team, Boyd made five from field, McDowell, one from field, and Abernathy one field goal. The "Preps" failed twice on free pitch. Final score stood 25-18 in favor "Preps."

The line up is as follows:

Y. M. C. A.	POSITION	W. V. P.
Marean.....	Center.....	Boyd
Stein.....	Forward.....	McDowell
Johnson.....	".....	Cunningham
Rizer.....	Guard.....	Hodges
Morris.....	".....	Abernathy

Referee—Heintz. Umpire—Pifer.

Timekeepers—Arnold, Clapp.

Scorers—Johnson, Ward.

W. V. U. Sophomore vs. W. V. P's.

In the "Gym" of the Preparatory the Sophomore Basket Ball team faced its Waterloo 21-4, on Dec. 19, '06. The game was "snappy" from the start to the finish. Each team put forth its best effort to win, and at the end of the first half the score stood 10-3 favoring the Preps.

From the intense interest created during the first half the last half was played with all the life and vim the two teams could muster. Of our team, McDowell made two goals from field and six from free pitch and failed one free pitch. Cunningham made three goals from field and one from free pitch, Boyd made two goals from field.

Of the Sophomore team, Peabody made one goal from field and failed on free pitch, Morris made two goals on free and failed on one.

After the game the teams were entertained at the home of Prof. Sanders by a few boys and girls and all reported a pleasant evening.

The line up is as follows:

W. V. U.	POSITION	W. V. P.
Morris.....	C.....	Boyd
Layman.....	F.....	McDowell
Pearcy.....	F.....	Cunningham
Smith.....	G.....	Arnold
Weaver.....	G.....	Hodges
Baumgartner } Gosby	Subs.....	White

Mulledy—Referee. Spicer—Umpire.

The Glee and Mandolin Clubs.

The University Glee and Mandolin Clubs gave a very enjoyable concert in the auditorium of the Preparatory School, January 7. It was the second appearance the club made this year.

Quite a large audience greeted the boys, who rendered their programme excellently. The solos by Mr. Harlan and quartette were much enjoyed. Prof. Spence charmed the audience by his violin solos and all the other special features in turn were thoroughly appreciated by the large audience. The stage was artistically decorated with penants from almost every school in the United States. We hope their impression of Keyser and of the people will be good enough to bring them back another year.

LOCALISMS

Yes, Edna has a new pair of shoes.

The latest yet: "Deed if I know"

We are unavoidably late this month.

Miss Sadie Friend spent last Saturday with her brother in Piedmont.

Mr. Horn was confined to his room for several days the past week.

The Stork paid Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Haught a visit, it's another boy.

Miss Mamie Brosius, who was once a "Prep," is visiting relatives in town.

Mr. W. A. Barrickman expects to pay the "Prep" a visit. Some one is glad.

Mr. Judd Blackman, of Parsons, is one of the new students, who registered for this term.

Herbert White was absent several days last week on account of illness. We are glad to see him back again.

We will thank any one who will contribute any item of interest for our paper. Don't be backward. Help all you can.

The Two Headed Monster known by the name of "Literary Societies" seems to be haunting the faculty of late.

The manager of the girl Basket Ball team will organize next week. Those who wish to play please let her know. EMLIE COFFROTH.

Mr. McNemar reports an exceedingly pleasant vacation. He says he attended a festival and treated a girl the sixth time.

We are certainly glad to know Prof. Anderson is getting rid of his c—, and now as his mother accompanied him back he will have no trouble to keep up the fires.

We are certainly glad to have Mrs. Anderson back with us again and hope her stay will be quite lengthy.

Miss H. to a friend, "If I were ——— I surely would sport a better pair of shoes."

The next day Edna went shopping, and the third day the weather was bad.

Miss McNeill, of Old Fields, accompanied by her cousin, Mr. Kuykendall, spent a couple days this week with her sister, Inez.

Mr. O. E. Corder, who was in school in 1905, is now back and expects to finish the complete course in the commercial department.

The members of the business practice class have made such a business for themselves that they have employed private stenographers.

Mr. Hubert Ward called upon a friend just recently and upon leaving put her raincoat on and insisted on wearing it down street.

New classes have been organized in Commercial Dept. for this term as follows: Commercial Law, Business Practice, and Banking.

The boys have certainly played well at their Basket Ball games and deserve encouragement. We hope they will continue the good work.

Quite a number of the boys and girls took part in the play, "County Centennial," last Friday night, which was a success. (Why wouldn't it be?)

Mr. Geo. Boyd is suffering some from a bruised head. He was trying the stability of the brick wall of the "Gym." He says "its some hard."

Have you heard the news?

Two more of our old students seemed to be much pleased with each other. When is it to come off?

Miss Laura Lauck left Monday for Cumberland, where she expects to enter the hospital to fit herself for a trained nurse. The "Refert" extends its best wishes to her as she enters her new field of labor.

The Ladies Aid Society extend their thanks to those who helped in the play on Friday last.

We now see that the talent of the school is very good. Why does not some one "start something?"

Miss Sue Sheetz, who during the summer months solicited subscriptions for the Youths Companion, was greatly rewarded for her labor by a cash prize of \$500 given by the Publishers of the Youths Companion for the greatest number of subscriptions taken.

Prof. Sanders in Latin.—"Mr. Lowry, translate the 11th sentence. Ommus Gallia tris partis habuit."

Mr. Lowry.—"All of Gaul has three fathers."

N. H.

THE REFERT.

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SUBSCRIPTION 25 CENTS A SCHOOL YEAR.

Public School Attendance.

It is related that when the W. Va. soldiers of the civil war returned to their homes, many young men who went into the service under the age of twenty-one were permitted to attend the public schools for a period equal to that part of their school life which they had given to their country's service. It is further related that many of them took advantage of that privilege, and that in many places young men between the age of twenty-one and twenty-five years could be found attending the county schools, and diligently applying themselves to their arithmetics, histories, geographies, as well as to writing, reading, and spelling.

The free school system was new then and for a while in operation in only certain parts of our state, but the evidence is conclusive that it was appreciated by those who could receive its blessing.

To come a little nearer the present, the writer can remember when in many of the country schools boys and girls continued to attend until they were twenty-one years old or nearly. It is true that in four months of each year they did not and could not make the progress that pupils now make in six or eight or nine months out of each year, but their progress was substantial, and in some instances have known pupils having competent teachers to go beyond the public school course and take up the study of Algebra or Geometry, or even begin the study of Latin.

These things happened in the "good old days" before the industrial possibilities of West Virginia were known. Families were still cutting down and burning timber worth from one to two hundred dollars per acre of the ground cleared in order to till land worth, when denuded of its forest covering, from ten to twenty dollars an acre.

The industrial awakening wherever it has touched our people has wrought a change, both good and bad; good in that it has made our people more keen and alert to discover their opportunities for business success, and has widened their interests in civil affairs from being purely local, to become state and national. The change is bad in that it has drawn into the overmastering struggle for wealth our boys at an age when they should be earnestly encouraged to pursue their school work. To be sure communities differ, they always have differed and always will. But in too many places our boys, and perhaps to only a slightly less extent our girls take advantage of the earliest opportunity to fall away from the schools.

We look to the present Legislature now in session at Charleston to so amend our compulsory law or to make it more effective; or, failing in this, to enact a new law which shall fully meet the needs of the state. But when the State Legislature shall have done its duty the work will be only begun. Behind every effective law must stand an awakened public sentiment.

In a community where indifference prevails as to the enforcement of any law, almost any criminal can violate that law and go unpunished. But not so where the citizens have a keen appreciation of the value of the law.

Let us expect our law-making body to act wisely in this matter, but while we are expecting much of them let us not forget our part in the great enterprise. For to every teacher, and to every progressive citizen who places a proper value upon public school attendance, it is given to have a part in fixing upon his community the prevailing sentiment that the opportunity to use the public schools carries with it the obligation to use them.

T. W. HAUGHT.



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**T. W. HAUGHT, Keyser, W. Va.**



## An Appology.

The Athenaeum gives a very glowing detail of the Sophomore B. B. team, though more of an apology for poor playing rather than a full account of the team's trip.

It seems that the editor bases his information upon the Sunday conversation of two members of the team, which he undoubtedly believes to be all smoke, at least he puts it that way, and also gives his authority.

It is true the "Sophs" were tendered a reception of such a nature that they had not been accustomed, (from the Sunday Conversationalist). Not only were the Keyser Preps. warned of what they might expect, an inevitable Waterloo. Word also came that the Sophs had not been beaten this season but it was hoped by the manager that the Keyser Preps would not hear of this until the game was over.

The game of 21-4 was indeed a surprise to the Sophs, but not an agreeable one. Of course it was necessary that some appology be made for the Sophs showing. So the cause was laid to the dim glow of two large Electric Arc lights and a dozen smaller lights at regular distances around the wall, and also spalding eighteen inch regulation baskets. It is true the Sophs had several trials for goal, even free pitches, but failed on all except one. So kind friend and Sunday Conversationalist be frank with us and say that you are becoming accustomed to such surprises and that you were here but you "didn't have the goods."

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Miss Christine Miller sang in Chicago at the auditorium before an audience of five thousand. The Chicago Critic says:

The golden opinions that Pittsburg singers are winning abroad is instanced in the tribute paid to Miss Christine Miller, a local contralto, who appeared in "The Messiah" with the Chicago Apollo Club and the Thomas Orchestra, in Chicago, December 25 and 27. W. L. Hubbard, the leading musical and dramatic critic of the Windy City, says, in the Chicago Tribune:

"Miss Christine Miller is one of the best contraltos heard here in oratorio in many a long day. Her voice is a healthy, strong organ, and sanely,

thoroughly schooled. It is a voice rich and sympathetic in timbre, round and full, yet not wanting in clearness and tonal definiteness. It is finely controlled and responds instantly to all demands made upon it. And temperamentally Miss Miller has distinct quality. She evidently has brains, and she uses them, and it is certain that she feels what she is singing. The result was an interpretation of the "Messiah" solos on Wednesday, not a mere solemn declamation of tones. She gave even "He was despised" so that it became effective, and every contralto knows what a task that is to accomplish. Her "O thou that tellest" had joyousness in it, and she made "He shall feed his flock" a proclamation of gladness instead of the doleful dirge usually offered by tone-loving contraltos."

—Ex.

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## Exchanges.

Our exchange list is now growing and hope more will find their way much faster. We extend thanks for the following papers:

"The Pickett", Shepherdstown, W. Va. (Shepherd College.)

"The Red and Blue," (Sacho Collegiate Institute) New York City, N. Y.

"The Inter-Collegian," (Y. M. C. A.) New York City, N. Y.

"The Acta," (Davis-Elkins College) Elkins, W. Va.

"The War-Whoop," (Powhatan College) Charlestown, W. Va.

"The Wangel," (Y. W. C. A.) Chicago, Ill.

"The Academy Bulletin," (Alleghany Co. High School) Cumberland, Md.

Also a weekly paper, "The Ring Tum Phi," of Lexington, Va.

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Ask Harry what the penalty for putting on a girl's hat is.

The centennial anniversary of General Robt. E. Lee was celebrated by the Washington & Lee University the 19th of this month.

Wanted.—A good stenographer and type-writer for my Business Practice, applicant must be able to write two hundred and fifty words per minute and typewrite seventy-five. Applicant with slower speed need not apply. Wages good.

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## Revised Football Rules.

### Rule I.

The 'forwards' must wear handcuffs to prevent a chance of fighting  
The halfbacks must be muzzled to retain them from biting,  
The 'quarter' must be choloformed before each play exciting.

### Rule II.

Each player must be guarded by a trainer, two physicians,  
Two umpires, a policeman and eleven politicians,  
A chaplain, too, must sooth him during intermissions.

### Rule III.

Don't use rough language, tempers must be smooth as any satin,  
The gridiron's not a proper place to wrangle or combat in,  
If you must use profanity, please swear in Greek or Latin.

### Rule IV.

To bar out all 'professionals,' we favor this appliance.  
Each student is disqualified, despite his fierce defiance,  
Who has not gained his Ph.D. in calculus or science.

### Rule V.

If some one takes the ball from you, don't try by force to drop him  
Stand still and thunder "Halt" three times and, if this doesn't stop him  
Call up a constable at once and have the 'copper' cop him.

### Rule VI.

The fullback who has caught the ball, before he tries to kick it,  
Must take it to the referee and get a credit ticket,  
Each coupon's good for seven yards towards the opponent's wicket.

### Rule VII.

In running ends, each player, as a cautional provision  
Must have a colored lantern as a guard against collision.  
Disputes must be referred to the supreme court for decision.—Ex.

Wouldn't it be nice if there was a woman's parlor at the Prep.  
"Deed if I know."

## Found a Hole For Him.

### Experience of a Fresh Young Man In His Start In Business.

Here is something that should appeal to every young man starting out in business: "When I came to New York," said a bright fellow to me, "I engaged for the year as entry clerk with a large dry goods house. I soon found out I couldn't get along with the superintendent, a dictatorial, domineering man. Being young and brash, I 'sassed' him, which made matters all the worse for me. At last my position became unbearable, and I quietly looked around for another place. The manager of a great grocery house asked where I worked and why I wanted to make a change. I told him in all frankness, and he asked me to come around in a few days. I guess I talked altogether too much. When I called he said, 'I have no place open at present, but I guess I can find a hole for you.' That was enough. I went back to my store and resigned.

"The next morning I presented myself before the manager of the grocery house. 'As I told you,' said he, 'I have no place open at present,' and walked away. 'But,' said I, 'didn't you tell me you would find a hole for me?' 'I did,' he answered back. 'Ain't you in it?' He then added, 'Mr. R., the superintendent of the firm you have been working for is my brother.' I have worked since then with my hands in my pockets, and the lesson took a good deal of the freshness out of me. It taught me to look before I leaped."—Ex.

There is a boy whom we often meet,  
For nearly all day he travels Mineral Street,  
His name is Herbert, his girl is Lola,  
And thoughts of her are all day in his head.  
Now when his hard day's work is o'er,  
Herbert to Lola's home does go,  
And with his darling upon his lap,  
They sit and sit and chat and chat.  
From her ruby lips he takes a kiss,  
And tells how dear to him is this Miss.  
Now when their courting time is o'er  
She escorts her lover to the door,  
And there, awhile they stop and talk  
Ere Herbert starts upon his walk.  
For Herbert rooms not far away,  
And he thinks of Lola all the way and  
While he's asleep in his downy bed  
Talks and dreams of his Lola dear.

Wonder why a couple of our Professors make frequent trips to Piedmont?  
Is there more attraction than the town itself?  
Some one solve the mystery.